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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Airfield Near Sliven

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. An airfield has been built in the Sliven area near the village of Artaklari (Arda). It is 12 km south of Sliven, west of the Demidzili-Sliven railroad line, east of the Artaklari-Sliven road. It is in the triangle formed by Demidzili, Artaklari and Aladaglie. At the northern end of the field there is a round hill about 370 km high. On the south it is bordered by the small river Tundzha. On the west, between the field and the road, there is a small wood, 500 m broad, which prevents observation from the road. To the west and south the field is open.
2. During the summer a concrete road was built to connect the field with the Artaklari-Sliven highway.
3. In the spring of 1953 the field was leveled and drained. It is grown with short grass. The prevailing wind is from the northwest. The field is 2,500 m x 2,000 m.
4. Work is still being done on the field by civilian labor under civilian engineers, about 135 men all told. They are quartered in Demidzili and Artaklari. The workers do not know whether buildings are to be erected other than the radio and weather station, which were completed in Sep 53. A magazine and gasoline dump are under construction, but no details are available.

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